

# More Collectors Reveals Need For New Literature

By Eric P. Newman  
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If books on coins and currency were sold and collected in rolls, would this be helpful to numismatics? I believe not.

If books on coins and currency were sold and collected because of their potential enhancement in value, would this be an advance in numismatics? I believe not.

If books on coins and currency were collected with emphasis on their errors in content or typography, would this be worthwhile for numismatics? I believe not.

If books on coins and currency were collected like first editions, kept in slip cases, and not subject to being soiled by reading, would this be desirable? I believe not.

When numismatic books are more widely collected, read, and reread, then their value to the reader will "increase and multiply".

The enthusiasm for numismatic literature in recent years has broadened extensively because of the satisfaction and stimulation that many new collectors have received from reading. A collector quickly realizes that a coin is enhanced in interest many fold by his knowing its background and historical significance.

Many more numismatic books in various fields are needed to satiate the needs of the increasing number of people enjoying numismatics as a hobby. This requires both research and writing by more authors and cooperation from collectors and museums.

Where would numismatics be without those in the past who were willing to devote their time to research and those who opened the doors of their cabinets to researchers? At present, for the first time, there are enough potential buyers of numismatic books to make it possible for a writer to receive some compensation for his time in preparation and in writing.

In the past this was not generally true, most books being a labor of devotion to numismatics or the product of an academic life. Numismatics, like every other complex science, requires team work, particularly in the preparation of quality written material. While everyone may not have the opportunity to write on numismatic subjects, everyone does have the opportunity to read those things which are written and to encourage further writing. It is no longer necessary to have a substantial library of one's own.

The American Numismatic Association library is extensive and books may be borrowed by mail. Although the superb American Numismatic Society library is not a circulating library it may be used in New York by its members. College libraries and public libraries have a surprising number of numismatic books available.

For many years one of the essential needs for numismatists in America was proper indices covering previously written books, articles, and comments. There is no comprehensive index to the Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine, The Coin Collector's Journal (Raymond), Mason's Monthly, Mehl's Monthly, Coin World, and many other domestic and foreign publications.

The indices of The Numismatist, The American Journal of Numismatics, Coin Collector's Journal (Scott), and many others, although quite helpful, are not detailed enough, in my opinion, to enable one to be sure that all items on a particular coin or a particular subject in those publications are included.

These, I believe, could be enlarged, revised and consolidated. Any detail may solve a prob-



Eric P. Newman

lem and sometimes a comment, an editorial, or an announcement not part of a titled article is very important to numismatic knowledge. There is no published index of particularly important coins in coin sale catalogs and this would be helpful.

Since 1947 the A.N.S. has published "Numismatic Literature" to review world wide numismatic articles and books currently, but this is not intended to be used as an index. The most valuable index in numismatics is the 1962 publication, "A Dictionary of the Catalogue of the Library of the American Numismatic Society", which is a copy of the card index of the A.N.S.

This seven volume publication, although quite expensive to own, should be perused by all numismatists in a casual manner just to become aware of its scope and to appreciate the amount of numismatic writing which is available on any subject. It is an item which clubs could very well find worthwhile to buy for use by their membership.

Reprints of older published material have always had an essential place in numismatics but it must be remembered that they are obsolete and contain the

original omissions and errors, many of which have been pointed out in the years subsequent to their writing.

It is therefore advisable that when reprints are published that they either be amended or include a bibliography within the publication giving newer data relative to the subject.

Reprints must be recognized as a broader distribution of old publications and not a step forward in knowledge. Since catalogs are constantly revised in their content as well as their pricing, other numismatic books should also be.

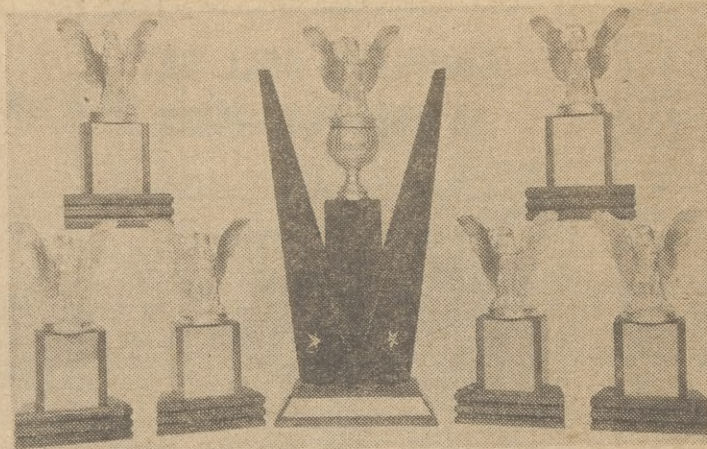
Many of us, in reading numismatic literature, have often desired to check the source of a statement or data given on the item we are reading. If footnotes are used this is a simple matter but one of the bad habits of many numismatic writers is their failure to give citations.

Some writers may feel that it detracts from their achievement to show how much has been borrowed from past writings on the subject, but actually it adds to the respect for a publication to have it well documented.

Some items in past writings have been stated and restated, quoted and requested, but no one has as yet located the source of the data to recheck its accuracy, for its possible reinterpretation or whether the origin of it may have been a fiction. Since books build up knowledge their foundation of facts should be certain.

Books on numismatics are able to surround collector's items with fascinating history, with strange customs of the period, with political conditions, with economic problems, with artistry, with money manufacturing processes, and, above all, with the attitudes of the people who used it. This changes a piece of metal or paper into a living symbol.

Books bring to numismatics the 3R's... Reading, 'Riting, and Research!



Handsome first place and best of show trophies to be awarded exhibit competition winners at Greater Aurora, Ill., Coin Show November 9 and 10.

## Three Clubs Join To Stage Greater Aurora Coin Show

The Greater Aurora, Ill., Coin Show and Auction will be held on Saturday, November 9, at the Holiday Inn, junction of Illinois 31 and the East-West Toll road near North Aurora. The event, expected to be the largest ever staged in the area, is being co-sponsored by the Aurora Coin Club, the Caterpillar Employees Club of Aurora, and the Sandwich Coin Club.

Three auction sessions are scheduled during the two-day show. The first, starting at 2 p.m. on Saturday, will be restricted to junior collectors. Bids will be accepted only from youngsters of 16 years or younger.

The two other sessions, unrestricted, will be held at 8 p.m. on Saturday, and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Ray L. Janusick of Lostant will be auctioneer at all three sessions.

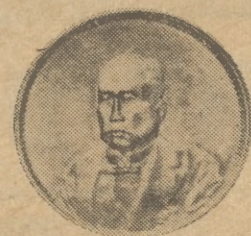
Collectors attending the Show will have the opportunity to buy, sell or trade at 30 bourse tables. Dealers are expected to feature an extensive assortment of United States and foreign coins, and numismatic supplies.

A variety of exhibits also are expected to be entered in six different divisions, with handsome trophies and medals to be awarded to first and second place winners and the best in show display.

### Book Investments

Spending 10 cents out of every numismatic dollar for books and 90 cents for coins will pay off handsomely at a much larger than 10 per cent rate — in knowledge and enjoyment of the hobby.

MENTION "COIN WORLD" IN ANSWERING ANY AD!



## Minor Foreign Coins from Aachen to Zug

by Russell Rulau

### BOOKS

Yes, the letter "B" also includes books, and these are of utmost importance to the collector of foreign coins, whether he be a general collector of coins of the world, or a specialist in any given series of modern foreign coins with which this column deals.

At the recent 11th annual Convention of the Middle Atlantic Numismatic Association in Baltimore, one of the visitors proposed an interesting and challenging "contest" to find out the "ten most necessary books" for any numismatist's library. The visitor was Don L. Sherer, Phoenix, Ariz., executive secretary of the American Numismatic Association.

The same sort of principle might well be applied to foreign coins of the period since 1763. It might be interesting to find out just which 12 volumes can be of the most benefit to the collector interested in this vast series.

Any such listing, of course, is purely personal opinion, and any dozen books selected would undoubtedly be differed with by large segments of the coin collecting fraternity. So, before we list those we feel are necessary for a minimum library of extensive scope, it must be stressed that this listing might be entirely unsuitable to large numbers of collectors.

Elsewhere in this issue may be found exact figures on cost and availability of all the books listed here, so only authors and titles are given. We have found that this group of books is that most frequently consulted in compiling the Numismatic Alphabet.

### MINIMUM LIBRARY:

Yeoman, Richard S., "A Catalog of Modern World Coins," familiarly known as the Brown Book. This guide is useful and essential for the majority of foreign coins issued since about 1860.

Raymond, W. A. T., "Coins of the World — Nineteenth Century Issues." This volume supplements Yeoman in the latter years of the century and provides some data not available elsewhere in the balance of the period.

Scott, J. W., "Copper Coins of the World — Copper, Nickel, Brass and Roman Imperial Bronze," familiarly known as "Copper Coin Catalog." Now available in several reprint editions, it offers much data before 1800 and further supplements both Yeoman and Raymond.

The above three books are general works. The remaining nine are specialized.

Craig, William, "Germanic Coinages." A vast compendium of information on Central European coinages from the middle ages to the present.

Kann, E. D., "Illustrated Catalog of Chinese Coins," indispensable for China, Tibet, Sinkiang gold, silver, nickel and aluminum issues. No copper coins are described.

Munro, N. S., "Coins of Japan." Now available in a reprint edition, this book covers a vast scope of Japanese coinage from feudal times.

Davenport, Dr. John S., "European Crowns 1700-1800."

Davenport, Dr. John S., "German Talers 1700-1800."

Both above works supplement each other and provide information on the silver crown-sized coinage of the European conti-

## NUMISMATIC ALPHABET



nent during its heyday of beautiful coinage.

Valentine, W. S., "Coins of the Muhammadan States."

Friedberg, Robert, "Coins of the British World."

Jaeger, Kurt, "Die Deutschen Reichsmünzen Seit 1871." While this catalog is in the German language, it provides data not elsewhere available in concise form in English.

Utberg, Neil S., "The Coins of Mexico 1536-1963" or Buttrey, Theodore V., "A Guide Book of Mexican Decimal Coins 1863-1963."

Next week we shall return to the alphabetical listing of the world's modern coinage from Aachen to Zug but an off-repeated statement bears repetition here first. "For every \$10 spent on coins, \$1 should be spent on books." The 10 per cent investment will pay handsomely in a 90 per cent return in enjoyment.

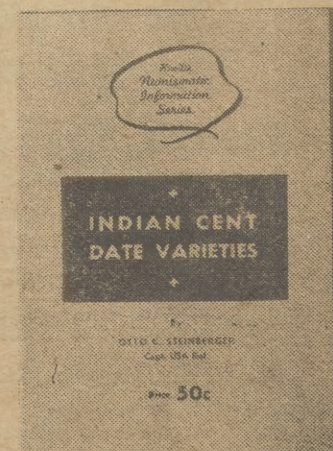
## Club Plans To Elect Officers

The Modesto-Turlock, Calif., Coin Club heard a report from the nominating committee at a recent meeting of the club in the Hotel Carolyn in Turlock. Those present were reminded that nominations may be made from the floor at the next session and that the slate as presented was only the committee's presentation.

Named by the committee were Bob Swain and C. C. Beery, for president; Everett Wendstrand, first vice president; Dewey Maggard, second vice president; Jim Varley, treasurer; Rip De Lano, secretary, and George Megas, auctioneer.

Beery, who is presently serving as publicity chairman, told of several of the items and the price they brought during the auction.

A roll of 1955-S cents, uncirculated was sold for \$37, a 1914-D Lincoln in very good condition brought \$42, a 1932-S quarter \$19, and a roll of brilliant uncirculated Lincoln "LIBERTY" cents \$43.



## New Booklets

New booklets in Hewitt's Numismatic Information Series are attractively covered in soft tan simulated leather covers, overprinted in dark brown.

### Books On Hand

There are approximately 65 feet of shelves filled with books in the Coin World library.